



AEHCA Inc.

## ***Our Guy in Guate***

Volume 1, Issue 2

By Vernon Archer



I hope you will share our passion.  
Please help us by sharing and  
follow us for future reports.

**Donate**

<https://www.eduhealthca.org/give>

The evening of July 14 started out like many others here in Ipala during the rainy season, with a few thunder claps and steady rain, but nothing unusual. In fact I spent 40 minutes or so on a Zoom call with the rest of AEHCA's board of directors in our monthly meeting, and hardly commented to friends in Maryland about the weather. But shortly after our call ended, the clouds really opened up. Within a few minutes the streets in front of our corner house came to resemble a river, and shortly thereafter had noticeable rapids as the water met from the two different streets.

Gracias a Dios, for our house and neighborhood, it got no worse, and none suffered any significant damage. Down hill even a little distance, however, it was much worse. Many stores and homes were flooded, causing a loss of goods, food, bedding and more. Along the normally tame creeks above and below Ipala, a number of families saw virtually all of their meager possessions go down a torrential river. Thankfully no one lost their life, but many lost everything else. To make matters worse, this was the second flash flood in Ipala this rainy season, with the earlier one causing substantial suffering, too

Clearly something had to be done to help the vulnerable families. Ipala's own resources had been mobilized and were very helpful during the first flood, but they were pretty well tapped out by that event. So Asociación Comité Ipaltecos de Hermanamiento (ACIDHER) met with me and we quickly got a plan together. ACIDHER used neighborhood leaders from the hard-hit areas to identify the folks who were most in need. The number totaled 75 families needing some help, and 11 needed a lot of help. From that we shot off a request to AEHCA for funds to get basic food support for all 75 and additional vouchers for clothing and household items for the 11 hardest hit.



## ***Our Guy in Guate***

Volume 1, Issue 2  
By Vernon Archer



I hope you will share our passion.  
Please help us by sharing and  
follow us for future reports.

**Donate**  
<https://www.eduhealthca.org/give>

AEHCA approved the request and sent the money the same day. Within two days food bags had arrived, and they were distributed over the next four days. The vouchers were a little slower going out because we had to create partnerships with second hand clothing stores and develop a system to make sure the money went only to the intended 11 families. With that implemented, this relief effort is complete. Could more help have been used? FYou know for sure it could have, but we made a big difference with the donations AEHCA had available.



All told, I'm happy to say we did a lot to alleviate the suffering caused by this natural disaster, and we learned a lot, too. Next time something like this happens I believe we can cut the time in half to get relief where it's needed. We are also discussing how we might have a rapid "beans, tortillas and clean water" team so that within 2 hours victims can eat something and ease the shock and know they are not alone.



Also, please share this post with your friends so they can know what we're doing in Guatemala and dreaming for more of Central America.

Visit our website



<https://www.eduhealthca.org>



This response and how well we can aid in Guatemala in the future depends on you and your willingness to donate. Please consider making a monthly recurring donation today to AEHCA. We hope you'll give what feels right!

**Donate**



<https://www.eduhealthca.org/give>